



# PICO

## NEWS MEMO

July 2004

### Public Information and Community Outreach Committee for the Ninth Circuit



#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR Judge Alicemarie H. Stotler

Welcome to the *PICO News Memo*, a periodic report on the efforts of judges, court staff and others in the legal community to improve public understanding of and confidence in the federal judiciary.

As you will see in this edition, federal courts of the Ninth Circuit have been very active lately both in media relations and community outreach. Several districts have held media workshops, allowing judges and journalists to interact outside the courtroom. One of these, the Northern District of California, is moving to establish a permanent media liaison committee to continue this important dialogue.

Law Day still reigns as our top community outreach event, while "Open Doors to Federal Courts," the still relatively new program sponsored by the Administrative Office, is gaining recognition for new and innovative ways to reach out to young people.

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#### TELL US WHAT YOU'RE DOING

The PICO Committee wants to hear from you. We know many judges and court staff are involved in community outreach. Why not share your experiences? Email us at:

[pico@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:pico@ce9.uscourts.gov)



### Law Day, 'Open Doors' Draw Hundreds of Students to the Courts

The Ninth Circuit's largest community outreach programs thus far in 2004 were the Central District of California's annual Law Day observance, held May 4-7 in Los Angeles, and the Eastern District of California's "Open Doors to Federal Courts" program, held Feb. 6 with simultaneous events occurring in Sacramento, Fresno and Bakersfield.

More than 600 students visited the district courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. In addition to introducing young people to the federal courts, this year's program also included reference to *Brown v. Board of Education* in this the 50th anniversary year of the landmark decision that led to desegregation of the nation's public schools. Chief District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall organized the program and spoke to several classes.

Some 700 young people participated in the "Open Doors to Federal Courts" program, organized around the theme "Working for Justice: Careers in the Courts." In Sacramento, Chief District Judge David Levi, District Judge William Shubb and Magistrate Judge Kimberly

*Visiting high school students on the steps of the federal courthouse in Los Angeles, above. In Sacramento, Magistrate Judge Kim Mueller presides over a mock trial, below, with students serving as jurors.*



Mueller presided over mock trials concerning a student accused of receiving a stolen vehicle. The script for the fictional case and a lesson plan distributed to teachers prior to the event were developed by the Administrative Office. Students acted as jurors and some portrayed the defendant in the case. Afterward,

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Judge Alicemarie H. Stotler

The PICO Committee continues to take a leadership role in these efforts. We jointly sponsored the Boise media event and several of our members participated as presenters and panelists. We are currently planning another session with the media, this one in Los Angeles and involving my own court, the Central District of California.

We look forward to hearing about other efforts to reach out to the media and public. Send email to [pico@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:pico@ce9.uscourts.gov) or contact one of the PICO Committee members, who are listed below.

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*In San Francisco, left, and Boise, federal judges and judicial staff engaged journalists in discussion of substantive issues.*



## Media Workshops Draw Big Turnouts

Recent court-sponsored media workshops in San Francisco and Boise enabled federal judges and judicial staff to interact with journalists outside the courtroom.

The Northern District of California's April 28 event drew some 30 reporters and editors from print and electronic media. Also participating were 14 federal judges, representing nearly half the district's bench. The half-day program began with a workshop geared toward reporters new to the federal court beat, followed by a roundtable discussion of substantive issues affecting the interaction between the judges and journalists.

"I was excited by the number of people that showed up, both members of the press and judges from our court," Chief District Judge Marilyn Patel said afterward. "It sets the stage for an ongoing dialogue."

The Boise media workshop was jointly sponsored by the Ninth Circuit's Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee, the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Idaho and the State Courts of Idaho. The May 13 event brought together federal and state judges, lawyers, law professors, freedom of the press advocates and working journalists from a number of Idaho newspapers and television stations. In all, some 60 workshop participants spent nearly six hours together, listening to presentations and sharing views on a variety of topics of mutual interest and concern.

"This was one of the best conferences I have ever attended on any subject," Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder observed afterward.

## Students cont.

lawyers from the U.S. Attorney and Federal Public Defender were on hand to talk about their careers and answer questions from students. Representatives of the probation and pretrial services offices and Marshals Service also spoke.

In Sacramento, students had the opportunity to meet with judges and visit information tables to learn more about career opportunities in the federal justice system. Participating agencies included the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret

Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the General Services Administration, the Eastern District Bankruptcy Court, and the Department of Homeland Security. In Bakersfield, Magistrate Judge Theresa Goldner presided over a mock trial. Her husband, Barry Goldner, a lawyer representative, coordinated planning of the event.

In Fresno, District Judge Anthony Ishii and Magistrate Judge Lawrence O'Neill presided over the mock trials, and Lawyer Representative Rosemary McGuire worked with Deputy-in-Charge Marianne Matherly to coordinate the event.



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